

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [022] with the following amended paragraph:

[022] In this manner, exemplary embodiments of the present invention facilitate breaking the polarization maintaining coupler into several subassemblies and allowing adjustable positioning of some subassembly parts with respect to other subassembly parts, while still maintaining a low overall insertion loss, but allowing the coupling ratio to be changed. In other words, a modifiable coupling ratio can be achieved by rotating the orientation of the optical axis of polarization fiber 304. Further, the relative positions of output fibers 318 and 320 ~~218 and 220~~ are fixed at all times with respect to optical element 310 to maintain low excess insertion loss for the overall system. If optical element 310 is allowed to rotate with respect to output fibers 318 and 320, the plane the input beams are split into will be not be parallel with respect to the plane containing the ends of output fibers 318 and 320 ~~218 and 220~~, resulting high excess insertion loss of the whole system. Low insertion losses for output fibers 318 and 320 ~~218 and 220~~ cannot be simultaneously achieved. Specific details of the construction of an exemplary embodiment of a PM coupler are discussed below.